

MARVEL
COMICS

THE AMAZING

SPIDER-MAN

SEPT
#438

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SAVES DAREDEVIL??!



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DEFALCO

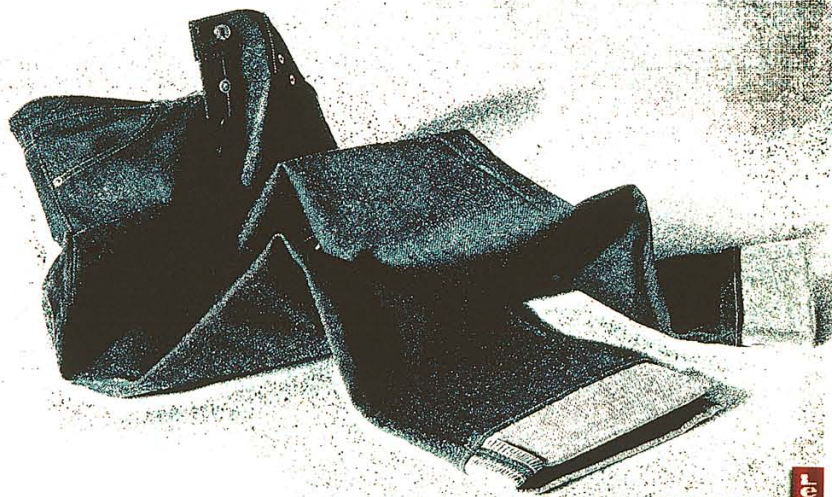
KOLINS

MARTIN

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DENIM RIGOR MORTIS.



HARD JEANS

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CONFUSION WARS WITH BLIND PANIC BENEATH SPIDER-MAN'S MASK! ONLY MOMENTS AGO, HE HEARD A STRIDENT ALARM WHILE HIGH ABOVE THE STREETS OF MANHATTAN.

WEB-SWINGING INTO A NEARBY BANK, HE FULLY EXPECTED TO FIND A SIMPLE ROBBERY IN PROGRESS. NOT QUITE!

SEEING IS DISBELIEVING!

I WAS AFRAID GODZILLA'S BIG SCREEN RETURN WOULD HERALD AN UNPLEASANT TREND TOWARD BIG MONSTERS -- BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!

HELP US, SPIDER-MAN -- PLEASE!

I WAS STANDING AT THE ATM WHEN WE WERE SUDDENLY TRANSPORTED INTO THIS WEIRD LOST WORLD!

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HEY, IT'S
THE EVER-
AMAZING

SPIDER-MAN!

A true hero at heart, Spider-Man has dedicated his life to preventing injustices against the innocent.

PREVIOUSLY IN

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



Met Peter Parker, once a brilliant, though meek, high school student, orphaned as a child and reared by his doting Uncle Ben and Aunt May. At a science fair, Peter was bitten by an irradiated spider and gained the proportionate strength, speed, agility and early warning "spider-sense" of that arachnid. He used these powers for personal fame and fortune as a masked **Spider-Man**. But when Peter failed to stop a criminal who later killed his beloved Uncle Ben, the youth's costumed identity took on a far deeper significance. He realized that with great power there must also come great responsibility. So Peter Parker became the wall-crawling nemesis of the criminal element; a young man determined to atone for the tragic death of his uncle — **The Amazing Spider-Man!**

SYNARIO

Angela Bradford was a computer programmer who created a device called the brain-inducer which plants images in a person's brain. Her ultimate goal is to use the device to illegally acquire enough money to bankroll her own computer company and become bigger than *Bill Gates*.



MATT MURDOCK

Currently a partner at *Sharpe, Nelson, and Murdock*, Matt is a renowned attorney practicing criminal law in the New York City justice system, who masquerades as the crimsoned crimefighter: *Daredevil!*



FOGGY NELSON

Junior partner at *Sharpe, Nelson, and Murdock*, Matt's best friend, and son of *Rosalind Sharpe*. Foggy is one of the select few who know about Matt's secret identity as *Daredevil*.



ROSALIND SHARPE

Senior partner of the *Sharpe, Nelson, and Murdock* law firm; she is the mother of *Foggy Nelson*.



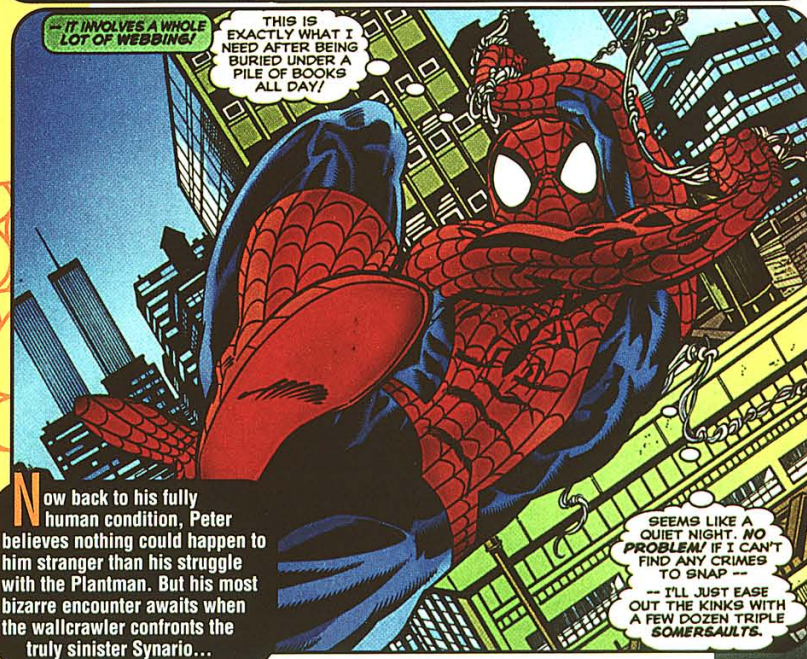
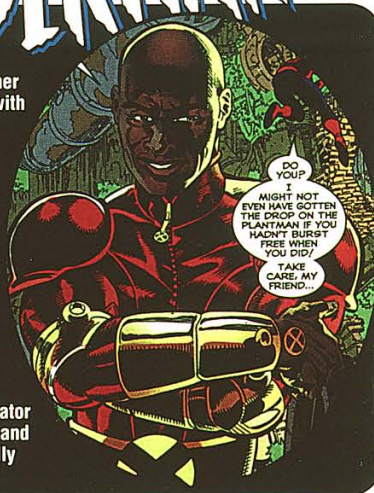
J. JONAH JAMESON

The owner/publisher of New York's *Daily Bugle* newspaper. *Jameson* has spent much of his long career branding *Spider-Man* a dangerous vigilante responsible for multiple crimes. Although respected in the journalistic community, *Jameson's* obsession with the web-slinger has occasionally forced him to adopt extreme positions on some issues. He employs *Peter Parker* as a freelance photographer.



The webspinner teamed up with Generation X member, **Synch**, to pull the roots out from under a plundering **Plantman**.

Despite being turned into a half-man, half-spider by the fiend's mutator plants, **Spidey** and **Synch** eventually triumphed.

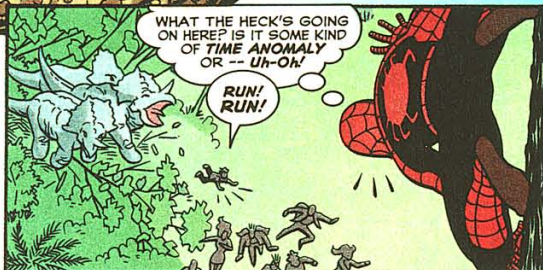


Now back to his fully human condition, Peter believes nothing could happen to him stranger than his struggle with the **Plantman**. But his most bizarre encounter awaits when the wallcrawler confronts the truly sinister **Synario**...

Design by COMICRAFT's John Marasigan



TRUST ME, BIG FELLA -- YOU DON'T WANT TO TAKE A CHOMP OUTTA LI'L OL' ME! I'VE BEEN CAUSING SEVERE INDIGESTION FOR YEARS!



WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON HERE? IS IT SOME KIND OF TIME ANOMALY OR -- Uh-Oh!

RUN! RUN!



THE BEASTS ARE ATTACKING --! WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE!



TAKE IT EASY, KID! NO ONE'S GONNA GET HURT!



ODD! SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG WITH MY SPIDER-SENSE! IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN BUZZING LIKE CRAZY WHEN THAT SECOND TRICERATOPS TRIED TO GORE ME!

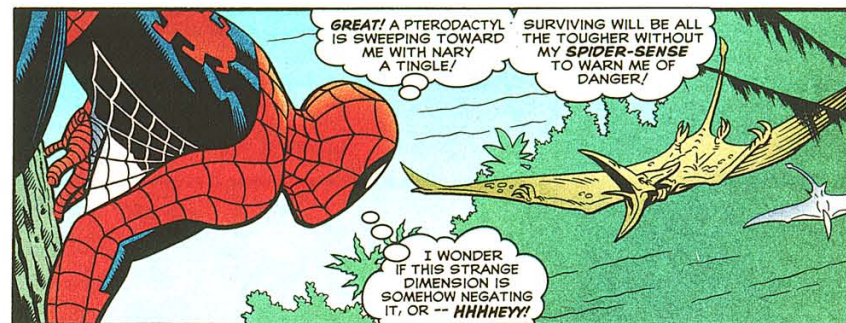
YOU OKAY, KID?

Duhhh! CHECK IN WITH ME -- AFTER WE RETURN HOME!



YOU'RE CLOSER THAN YOU THINK, KID!

NOT IF YOUR FRIENDLY, NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN CAN HELP IT!



GREAT! A PTERODACTYL IS SWEEPING TOWARD ME WITH NARY A TINGLE!

SURVIVING WILL BE ALL THE TOUGHER WITHOUT MY SPIDER-SENSE TO WARN ME OF DANGER!

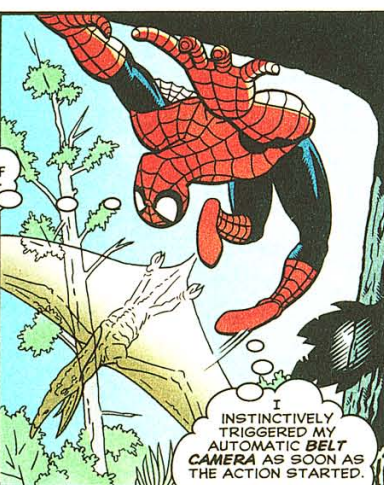
I WONDER IF THIS STRANGE DIMENSION IS SOMEHOW NEGATING IT, OR -- HHHHEYY!



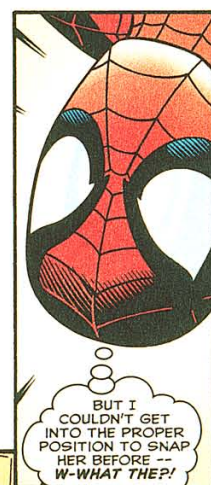
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S FOUND A GATEWAY BACK TO OUR HOME DIMENSION!

WHY ISN'T SHE TRYING TO ALERT THE REST OF US?

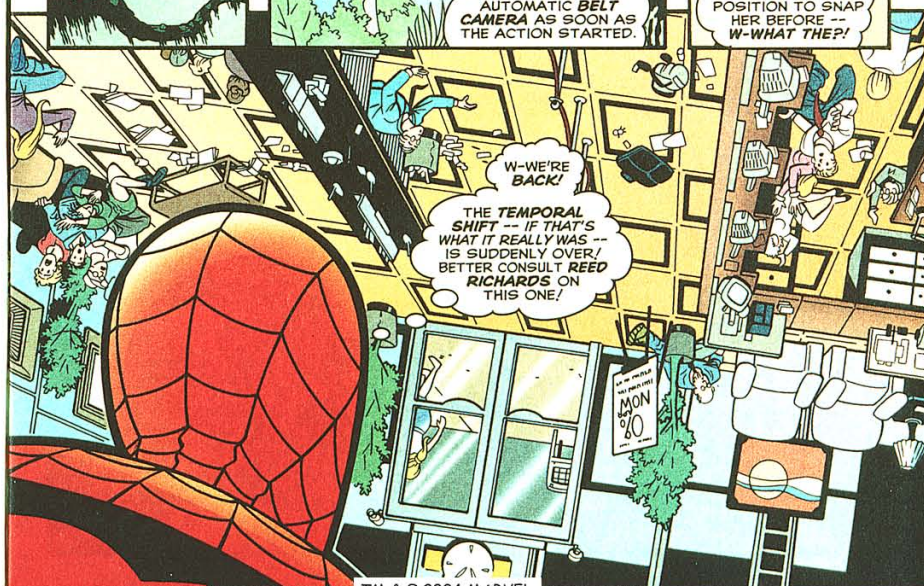
SHE COULD BE IN A STATE OF HYSTERIA! OR Hmmm!



I INSTINCTIVELY TRIGGERED MY AUTOMATIC BELT CAMERA AS SOON AS THE ACTION STARTED.

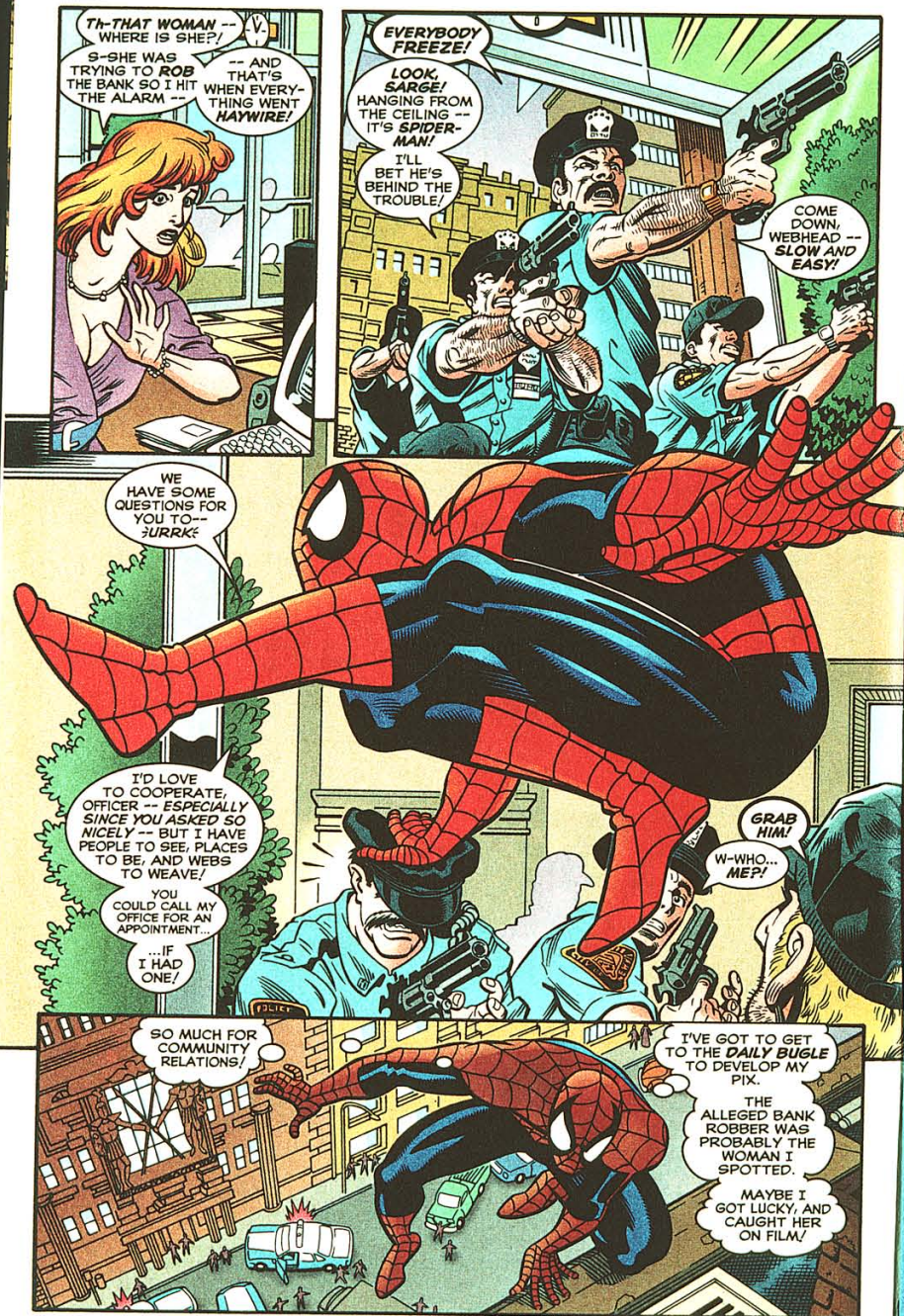


BUT I COULDN'T GET INTO THE PROPER POSITION TO SNAP HER BEFORE -- W-WHAT THE?!



W-WE'RE BACK!

THE TEMPORAL SHIFT -- IF THAT'S WHAT IT REALLY WAS -- IS SUDDENLY OVER! BETTER CONSULT REED RICHARDS ON THIS ONE!



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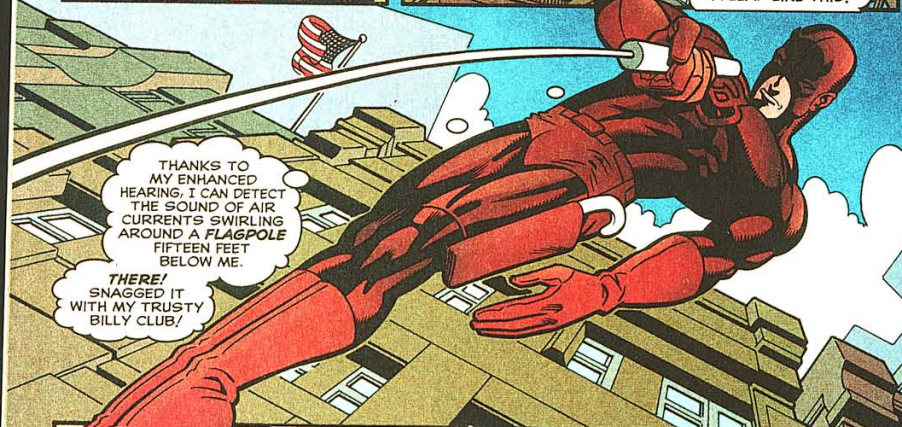
FROM THE SOUND OF THAT DISTINCTIVE HEARTBEAT, I'D SAY SPIDER-MAN BEAT ME TO THE BANK, AND HAS ALREADY HANDLED THE PROBLEM.



-- BUT ATTORNEY MATT MURDOCK HAS AN IMPORTANT MEETING!



THE FASTEST WAY ACROSS TOWN IS BY TRAVELING AS ONLY DAREDEVIL CAN!



NOT BAD! I MADE IT ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE LEGAL OFFICES OF SHARPE, NELSON AND MURDOCK IN RECORD TIME.

POSSESSING SENSES -- WHICH HAVE BEEN MAGNIFIED MANY TIMES -- DOES HAVE DISTINCT ADVANTAGES!



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...STARTING WITH MIDDTOWN, MAYOR!

THIS IS A JOB FOR-- MODERATOR!

ALREADY ON THE JOB, MODERATOR IS FLYING UNDETECTED THROUGH MODERN LINES IN SEARCH OF VY-RUS!

MUST SAVE NEW YORK-- AND FAST!

THOSE NEW YORKERS THINK I'M KIDDING! I'LL SHOW THEM!

POOF!

-- AND TIMES SQUARE IS NEXT!!

HAVING FOUND THE RIGHT LINE, MODERATOR SCRAMBLES VY-RUS'S MORN!

WAAA--?! WHO DARES TO--

LIGHTS OUT FOR VY-RUS!

VY-RUS'S ACCESS TO THE WEB IS RESTRICTED TO A HOMEPAGE ONLY! THANKS TO MODERATOR, HIS REIGN OF TERROR COMES TO AN END!

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Ahhh! I SMELL ROSALIND SHARPE'S STRONG PERFUME. Ah! I HEAR THE FAMILIAR RUMBLE IN FOGGY NELSON'S STOMACH.

I ALSO SENSE A NEW BREATHING PATTERN WHICH MUST BELONG TO OUR NEW CLIENT.

YOU'RE JUST IN TIME, MURDOCK.

THIS IS BERT GILMORE -- OF GILSOFT GAMES -- AND HE WAS JUST ABOUT TO UPDATE US.



AS YOU PEOPLE MAY ALREADY KNOW, WHEN I FIRST FOUNDED GILSOFT GAMES -- A COMPUTER SOFTWARE COMPANY -- IT WAS JUST ME AND A FEW PROGRAMMERS.

WE WERE LIKE A FAMILY. I KEPT EVERYTHING PRETTY INFORMAL, AND HAVE ALWAYS ENCOURAGED MY EMPLOYEES TO DEVELOP NEW IDEAS FOR GAMES.

IT NOW LOOKS LIKE A FEW OF THOSE GAMES ARE ABOUT TO HIT -- AND HIT BIG -- SO I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT THE COMPANY ACTUALLY OWNS THEM.

THAT COULD BE PROBLEMATIC. YOUR PEOPLE MIGHT RETAIN CERTAIN RIGHTS TO THEIR MATERIAL.

BUT, SINCE YOU'RE OUR CLIENT, WE'LL DRAW UP WHAT-EVER PAPERS YOU NEED TO SECURE THOSE RIGHTS!



HOWEVER, WE WILL ALSO ADVISE YOUR EMPLOYEES TO CONSULT THEIR OWN ATTORNEYS BEFORE SIGNING ANYTHING.

DO YOU REALLY FEEL THAT'S NECESSARY --?!

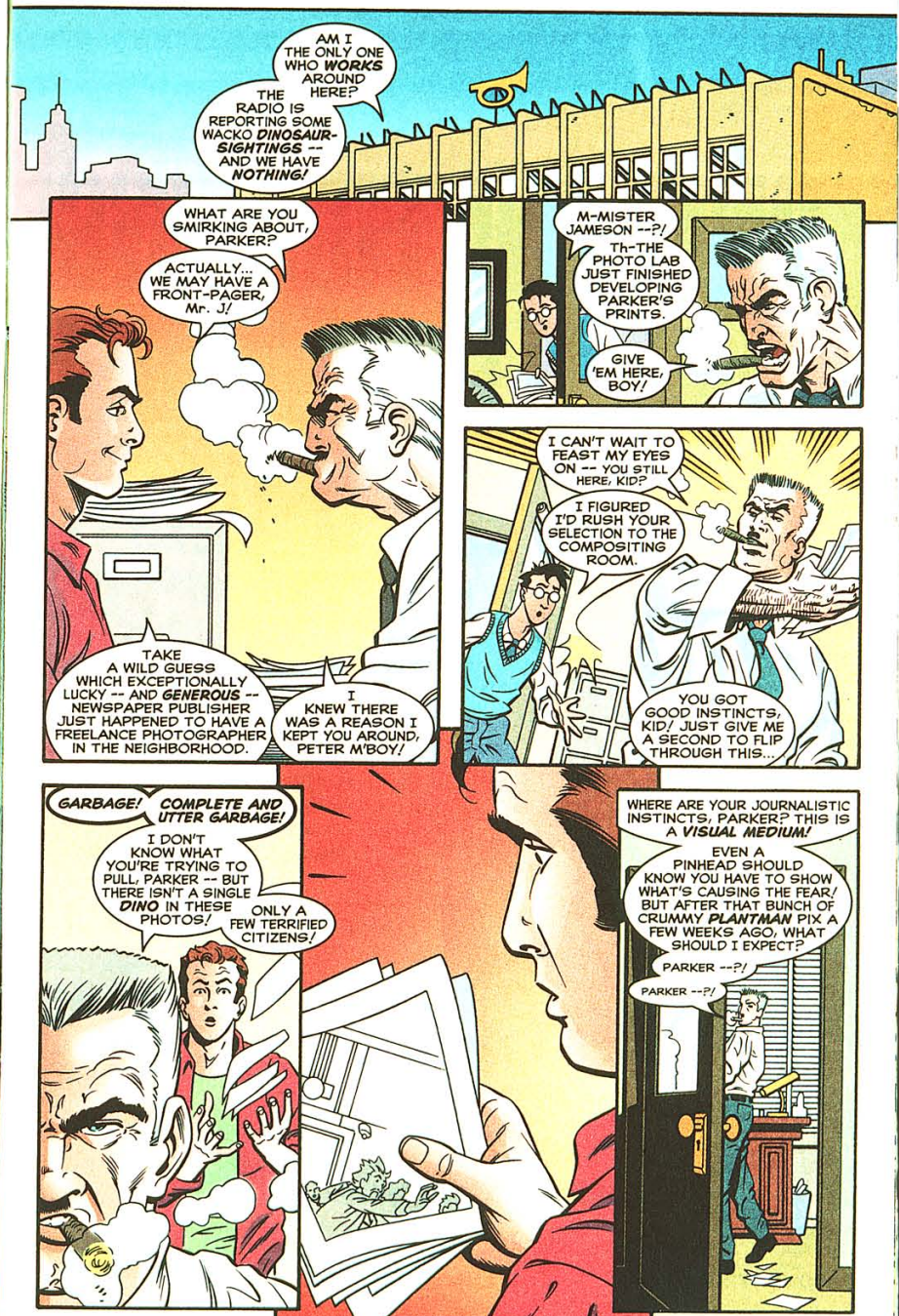
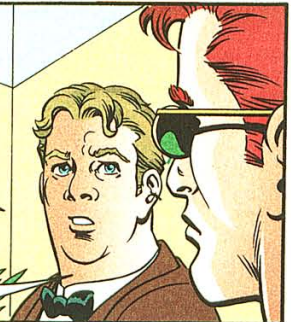
I DO.



I AM CERTAIN EVERYTHING WILL BE WORKED OUT TO YOUR SATISFACTION, BERT.

YOU'RE LUCKY YOU COULDN'T SEE THE DIRTY LOOK ROSALIND SHOT YOU, MATT.

GILMORE MAY BE OUR CLIENT, BUT I STILL HAVE TO FOLLOW MY CONSCIENCE.



AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO WORKS AROUND HERE?

THE RADIO IS REPORTING SOME WACKO DINOSAUR-SIGHTINGS -- AND WE HAVE NOTHING!

WHAT ARE YOU SMIRKING ABOUT, PARKER?

ACTUALLY... WE MAY HAVE A FRONT-PAGER, Mr. J!

TAKE A WILD GUESS WHICH EXCEPTIONALLY LUCKY -- AND GENEROUS -- NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER JUST HAPPENED TO HAVE A FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

I KNEW THERE WAS A REASON I KEPT YOU AROUND, PETER M'BOY!



GARBAGE! COMPLETE AND UTTER GARBAGE!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO PULL, PARKER -- BUT THERE ISN'T A SINGLE DINO IN THESE PHOTOS!

ONLY A FEW TERRIFIED CITIZENS!



M-MISTER JAMESON --?!

Th-TH- THE PHOTO LAB JUST FINISHED DEVELOPING PARKER'S PRINTS.

GIVE 'EM HERE, BOY!



I CAN'T WAIT TO FEAST MY EYES ON -- YOU STILL HERE, KID?

I FIGURED I'D RUSH YOUR SELECTION TO THE COMPOSITING ROOM.

YOU GOT GOOD INSTINCTS, KID! JUST GIVE ME A SECOND TO FLIP THROUGH THIS...



WHERE ARE YOUR JOURNALISTIC INSTINCTS, PARKER? THIS IS A VISUAL MEDIUM!

EVEN A PINHEAD SHOULD KNOW YOU HAVE TO SHOW WHAT'S CAUSING THE FEAR! BUT AFTER THAT BUNCH OF CRUMMY PLANTMAN PIX A FEW WEEKS AGO, WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?

PARKER --?!

PARKER --?!

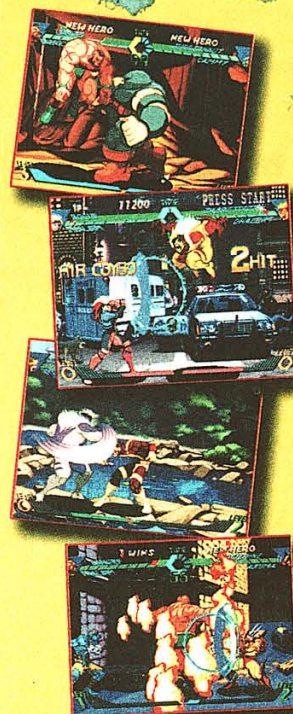
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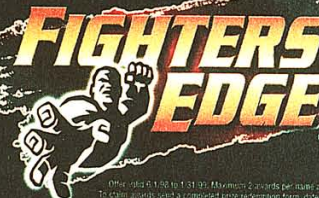
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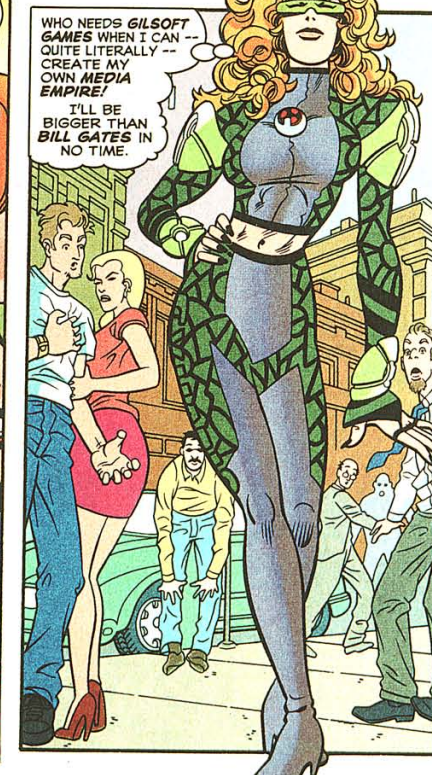
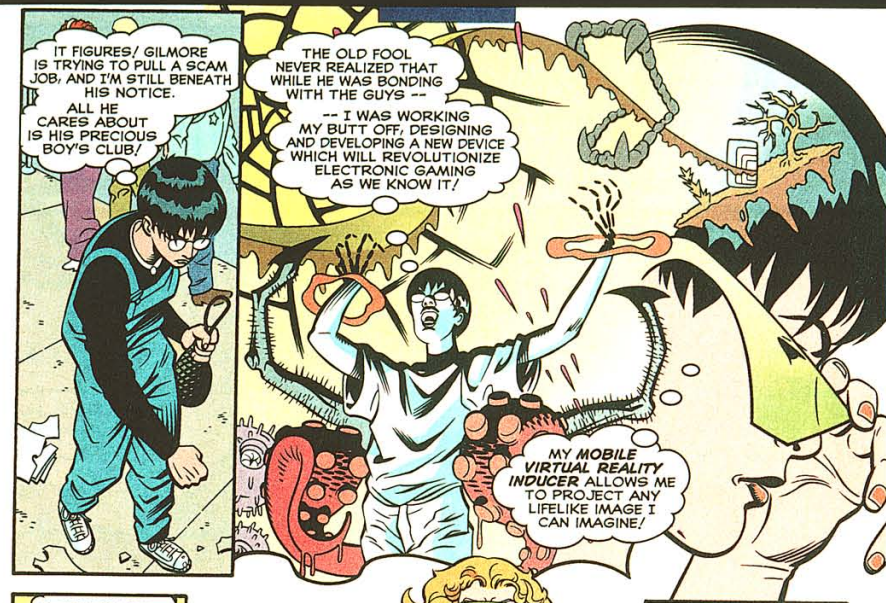
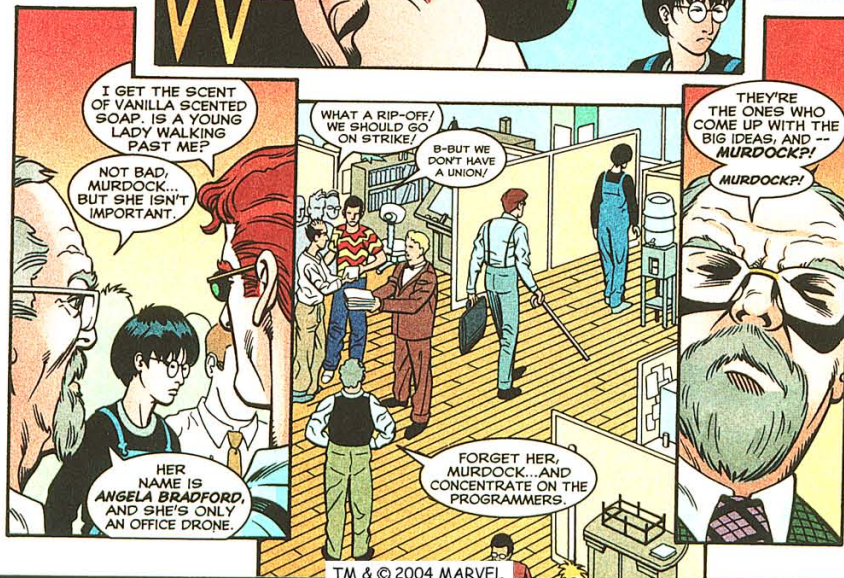
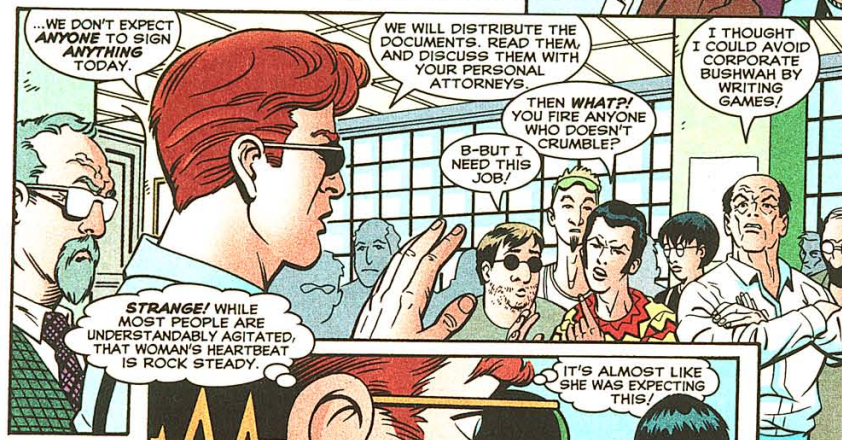
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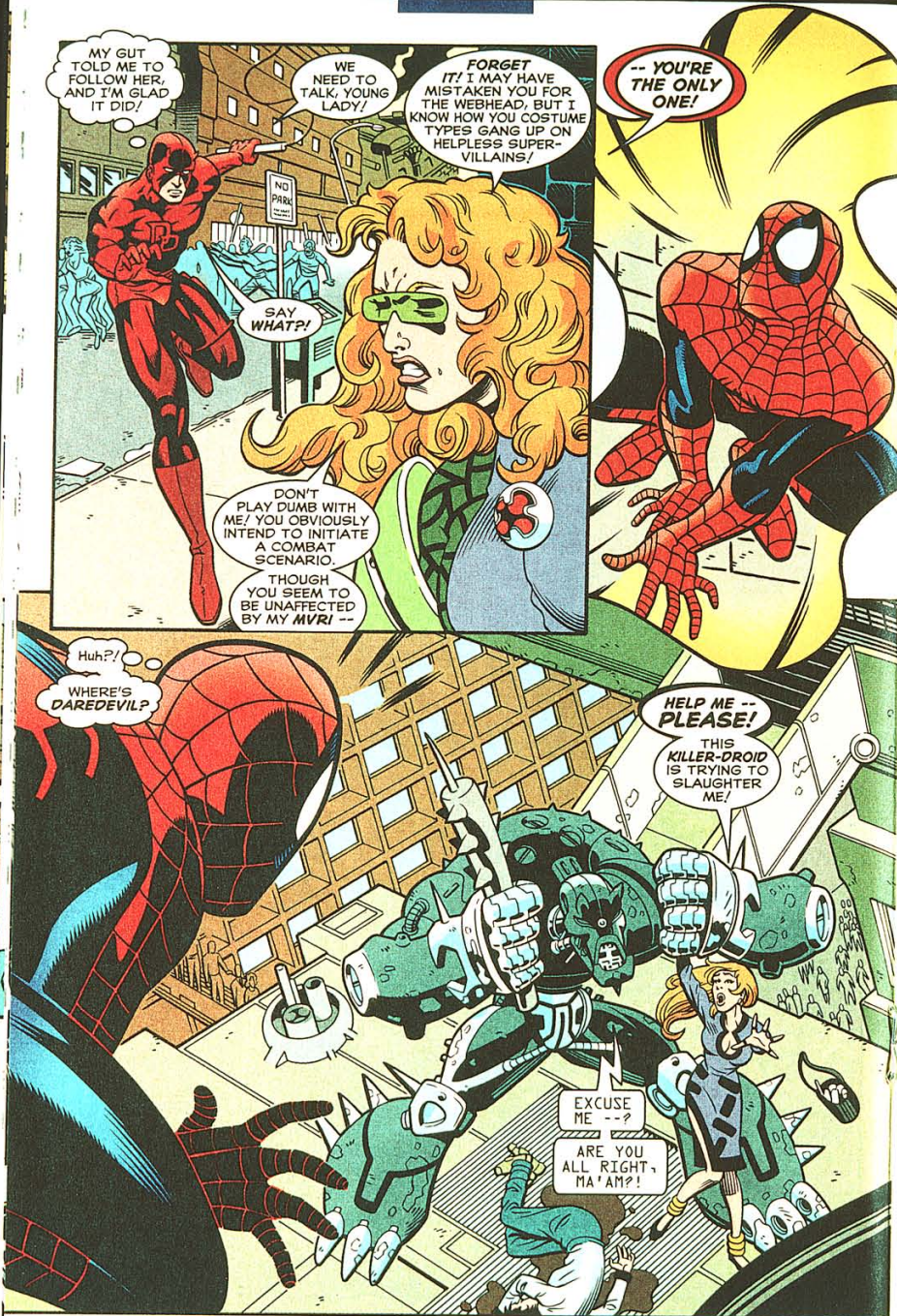
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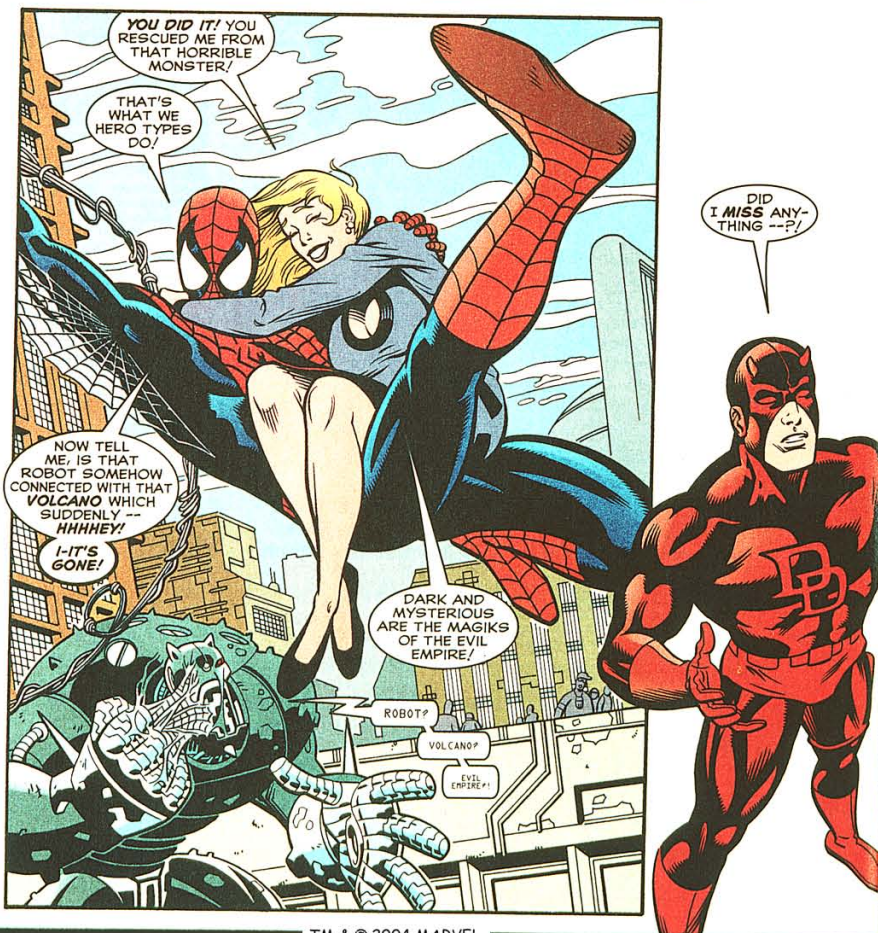
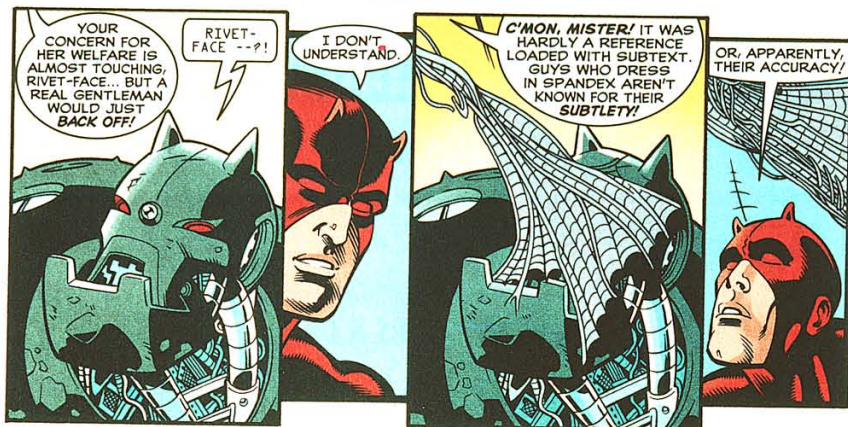
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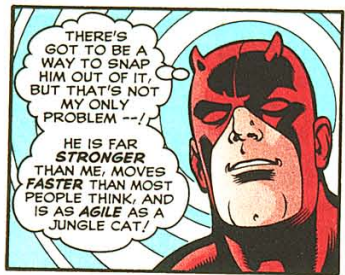
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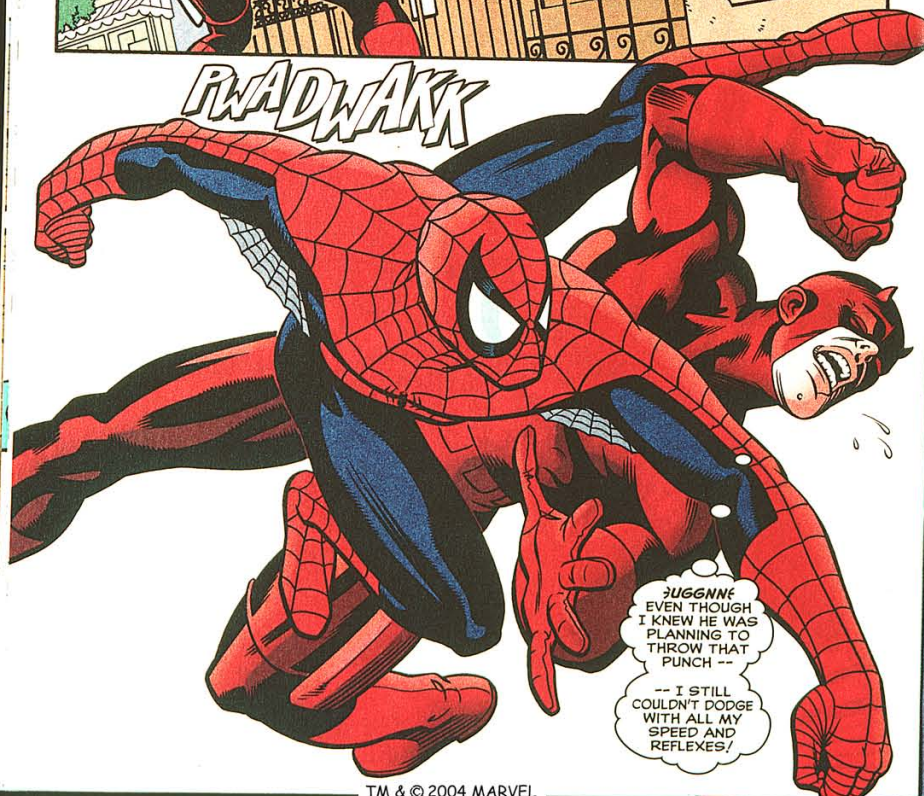
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Marvel Heroes

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ AFT Alpha Flight | ☐ SIL Silver Surfer |
| ☐ DDV Daredevil | ☐ INC The Incredible Hulk |
| ☐ HFH Heroes For Hire | ☐ BUT Thunderbolts |
| ☐ ZAR Ka-Zar | |

Spider-Man

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ AMZ Amazing Spider-Man | ☐ SSM Sensational Spider-Man |
| ☐ PPK Spectacular Spider-Man | ☐ SPT Spider-Man |

The X-Men

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ CAB Cable | ☐ FAC X-Factor |
| ☐ DDP Deadpool | ☐ MEN X-Men |
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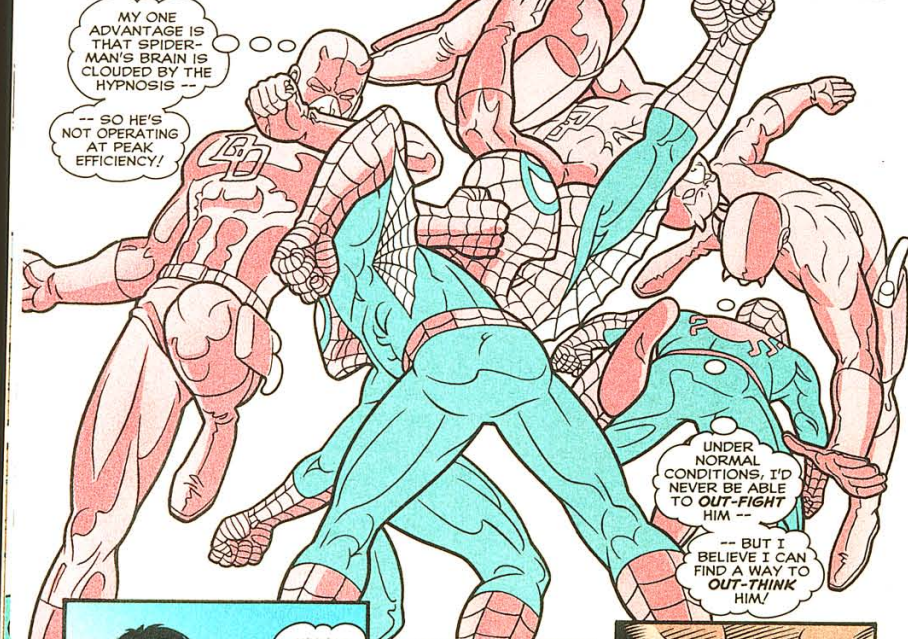
H87MD8



WHERE ON EARTH DID MURDOCK GO? I LOST BOTH HIM AND ANGELA RIGHT BEFORE ALL THE SHOUTING -- WHOA!



???

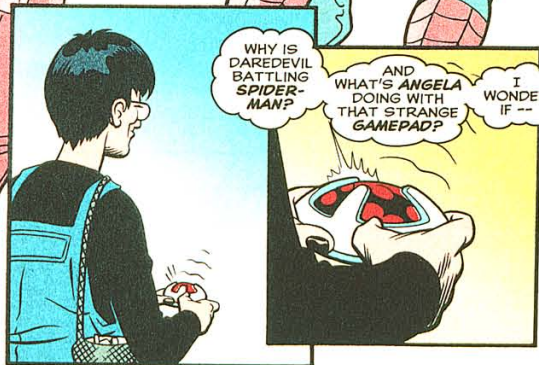


MY ONE ADVANTAGE IS THAT SPIDER-MAN'S BRAIN IS CLOUDY BY THE HYPNOSIS --

-- SO HE'S NOT OPERATING AT PEAK EFFICIENCY!

UNDER NORMAL CONDITIONS, I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO OUT-FIGHT HIM --

-- BUT I BELIEVE I CAN FIND A WAY TO OUT-THINK HIM!



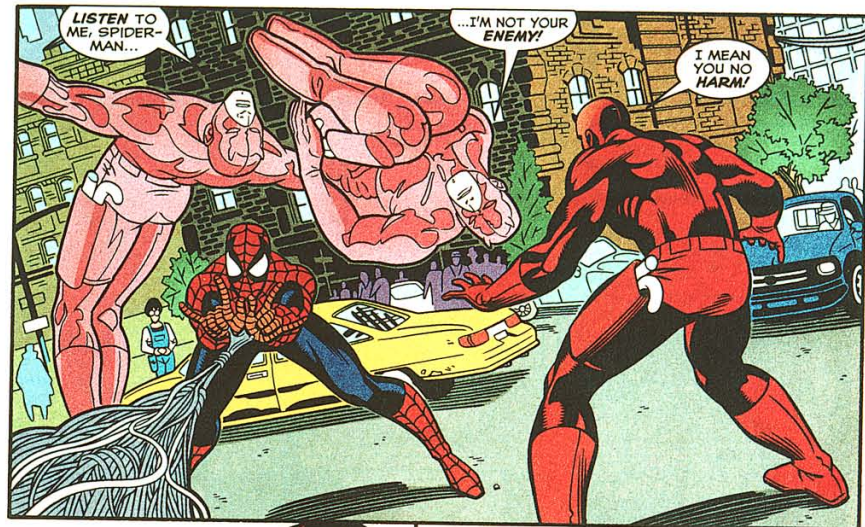
WHY IS DAREDEVIL BATTLING SPIDER-MAN?

AND WHAT'S ANGELA DOING WITH THAT STRANGE GAMEPAD?

I WONDER IF --



\$\$\$



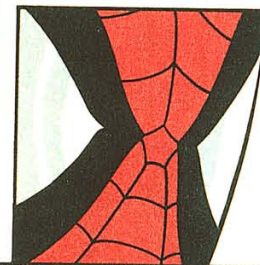
LISTEN TO ME, SPIDER-MAN...

...I'M NOT YOUR ENEMY!

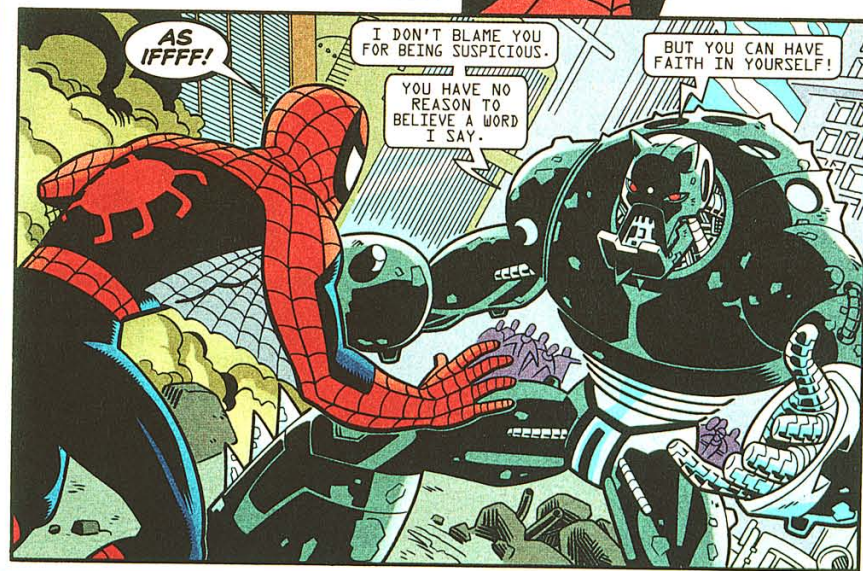
I MEAN YOU NO HARM!



YOUR EYESIGHT IS LYING TO YOU! YOUR SENSES ARE BEING MANIPULATED!



ARE YOU ASKING ME TO TRUST YOU?!

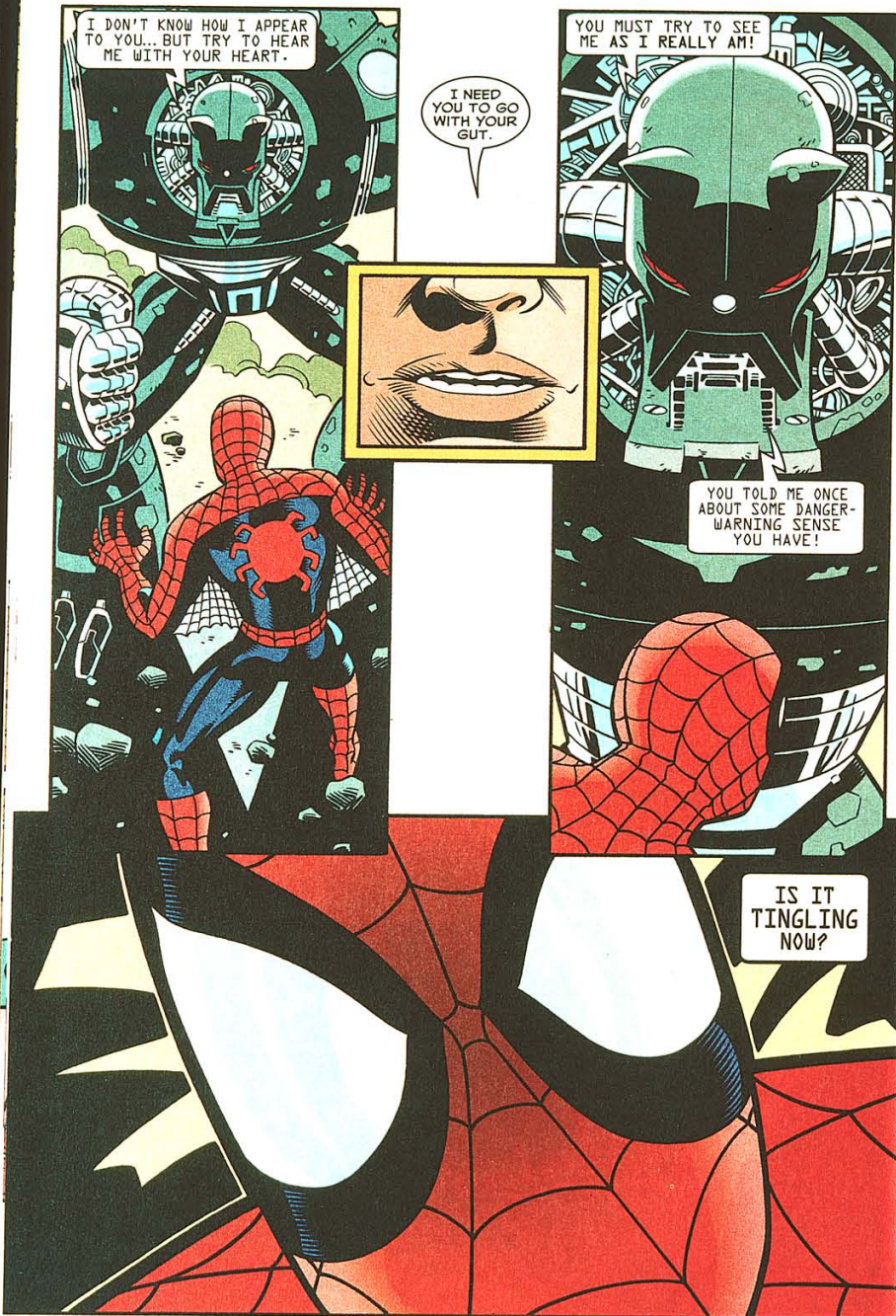


AS IFFFF!

I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR BEING SUSPICIOUS.

BUT YOU CAN HAVE FAITH IN YOURSELF!

YOU HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE A WORD I SAY.





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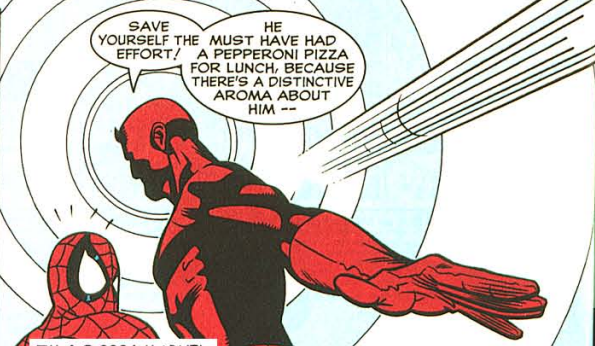
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CAPTAIN AMERICA

#9
The 'American Nightmare' begins! Public figures are going insane, and it looks like the work of... the rampaging RHINO? CAP's gonna need a bigger shield! By MARK WAID and ANDY KUBERT!

EXCALIBUR

#124
It's party time for EXCALIBUR, as the team prepares for CAPTAIN BRITAIN's bachelor party and MEGAN's bridal shower! By BEN RAAB and TREVOR SCOTT!

HEROES FOR HIRE

#15
The Siege of Wundagore Mountain begins here! What horrifying plan is EXODUS concocting for the world using the mysterious ISOTOPE E? By JOHN OSTRANDER and PASCUAL FERRY!

INCREDIBLE HULK

#468
The new creative team comes aboard here! BRUCE BANNER searches for clues to prove his innocence, but the HULK may destroy the evidence! By JOE CASEY and JAVIER PULIDO!

PETER PARKER, SPIDER-MAN

#95
PETER PARKER is trapped in an elevator with NORMAN OSBORN and BETTY BRANT -- and a terrorist ISOTOPE E? By JOHN OSTRANDER and PASCUAL FERRY!

SEEKER 3000

#42
The SEEKER has been invaded by a horde of marauding aliens! Where's SIGOURNEY WEAVER when you really need her? By DAN ABNETT, IAN EDGINTON and ANDREW CURRIE!

STRANGE TALES

#1
Continuing the adventures of MAN-THING and WEREWOLF BY NIGHT! Plus: an all-new tale of the ZOMBIE! By J.M. DeMATTEIS, PAUL JENKINS, LIAM SHARP, LEONARDO MANCO, and more!

THOR: ROUGH CUT

#1
Reprinting THOR #1 -- in black and white -- directly from the power-packed pencils of JOHN ROMITA JR.! Plus: DAN JURGENS's original plot for this landmark issue! By DAN JURGENS and JOHN ROMITA JR.!

THUNDERBOLTS

#18
Will the THUNDERBOLTS be forced once again into lives of villainy? That's what the MASTERS OF EVIL are waiting to find out! By KURT BUSIEK and MARK BAGLEY!

WHAT IF?

#112
What if New York had become KA-ZAR's Savage Land -- forever? Dangerous dinosaurs are eager to take a big bite out of the Big Apple! By BRIAN K. VAUGHN and COY TURNBULL!

X-MEN

#42
NATE GREY hunted by -- leprechauns? That's the magical question, as Nate finds himself in Ireland, and comes face-to-face with the mysterious NESS! By TERRY KAVANAGH and ROGER CRUZ!

X-MEN

#79
As the X-MEN celebrate their 35th anniversary, CANNONBALL must leave the team! But before he does, can he accomplish the impossible and turn MARROW into an X-Man? By JOE KELLY and GERMAN GARCIA!

ITEM! Prepare yourself for the Siege of Wundagore! HEROES FOR HIRE #15, on sale next week, begins a five-part epic, crossing over between HFFH and QUICKSILVER for the next two months! The story begins when the master geneticist, the HIGH EVOLUTIONARY, decides the time has come to lead an assault to retake Wundagore Mountain from the evil EXODUS and his super-powered ACOLYTES! To accomplish this task, H.E. has recruited the displaced KNIGHTS OF WUNDAGORE (now led by QUICKSILVER), as well as his most unique creation: the HFFH's own WHITE TIGER! Both HFFH and QUICKSILVER are written by Jolinn JOHN OSTRANDER, so you know the action will flow fast and furious between the two mags! The art for HFFH is by PASCUAL FERRY and JAIME MENDOZA, and PIETRO's art team includes DEREK AUCCINO and RICH FABER, with JOE EDKIN aboard as co-writer! Forget about Mount Everest! If you're a real thrill-seeker, Wundagore Mountain is the only place to be this summer!

ITEM! What's new with the INCREDIBLE HULK these days? The answer to that is: EVERYTHING! INCREDIBLE HULK #468, on sale next week, features a new creative team, new characters, and a bold new direction! For the first time in twelve years, there is a new writer on the HULK: it's JOE CASEY of CABLE fame, and he's got all kinds of surprises in store for 'Greenskin!' JAVIER PULIDO climbs aboard as the artist for this monumental ish, and he's bringing a bold new look to our gamma-irradiated Goliath! This issue finds the HULK investigating the mystery of BETTY's death, but there's no telling where his search will lead! One thing you can be sure of: when the Hulk finds out who's responsible for his wife's death, it's gonna be smashing time!

ITEM! Move over, Bruce Willis -- SPIDER-MAN is about to experience *Die Hard* in an elevator! This action-packed story can be found in PETER PARKER, SPIDER-MAN #95, which goes on sale next week, and is perhaps the most intense SPIDEY story we've ever published! Don't believe us? Check out this scenario: PETER PARKER and his most hated foe, NORMAN OSBORN, along with grandson NORMIE and BETTY BRANT, are trapped on an elevator that's been disabled by a terrorist -- and it's about to drop 20 floors! The tension inside becomes unbearable, and neither PETER nor NORMAN can see any way out except by revealing their respective powers! HOWARD MACKIE, JOHN ROMITA JR., and SCOTT HANNA are the creators responsible for this nail-biter! You'll be webbed to the edge of your seat as the suspense mounts! Will PETER figure a way out of this -- or will he get the shaft?

ITEM! If you've been hunting for some Marvel monsters lately... we've just made things a little easier for you! We've combined our MAN-THING and WEREWOLF BY NIGHT mags into one monster-sized 64-page monthly called STRANGE TALES! The first horrific issue goes on sale next week, and it features the creative teams of MAN-THING and WEREWOLF BY NIGHT picking up right where they left off! That means you get J.M. DeMATTEIS and LIAM SHARP continuing Manny's clash with the SILVER SURFER; and PAUL JENKINS and LEONARDO MANCO spinning the saga of the Werewolf's attempt to prove his innocence -- before two N.Y. cops hunt him down! As an extra bonus, each issue of STRANGE TALES will feature a ten-page back-up story! This issue has a blood-curdling story of SIMON GARTH, the ZOMBIE, by GLENN HERDLING and MARK PAJARILLO! Check out STRANGE TALES #1, and get your monthly dose of Marvel monsters in one nifty package! It's just what the doctor ordered! (DOCTOR STRANGE, that is!)

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Hi, Heroes!
I hate to admit it, but even someone as perfect as I am gets an occasional complaint. Lots of our readers have been faulting me because the Spider-Man newspaper strip doesn't appear in their hometown paper. Honest, guys, it's not my fault. If you want Spidey in your own newspaper, you've got to write to your paper's editor and tell him. It's as simple as that. If the editors don't hear from you, how can they know? And for you who do have the web-slinger in your paper, it doesn't hurt to drop your editor a line telling him how much you appreciate it. See? Not only do we try to entertain you, but we give you politeness tips, too! Now, on to the mail --

Michael McClelland of Hollywood, CA has an eye to the future as he asks:

"Will people still be reading comics in the next millennium?"

Actually, Mike, I haven't had time to survey every living being on the planet, but I'm betting they'll still be reading Marvels anyway. They'll have to. Our story lines are so complex it'll take us till the next millennium to get 'em all untangled!

Here's a letter that really hurts. It's from Bill Psatzatsis of Messinia, Greece:

"Does your comic book collection include every single Marvel ever published?"

Oh, Bill, Bill -- I wish you hadn't reminded me! I was too knuckle-headed to save any of 'em. Even today, if I wanna read an old story I wrote, I have to borrow it from the Bullpen or buy a copy if the merry Marvel menagerie doesn't have one!

Darryl Hill of Cincinnati, OH is obviously interested in human relations. Here's why:

"What does a babe like Marla see in a guy like J. Jonah Jameson?"

Don't spread this around, but I heard that Jonah can wiggle his ears and he's a real pistol at parties. And he has one other small attribute -- he's rich, rich, rich!

Say hi to Ken Loving of Palm Bay, FL who's the first guy ever to ask about this:

"Is Yancy Street a place you made up or a real street from your past?"

To tell the truth, Kenny -- which is all any Marvelite would ever tell! -- both Jack Kirby and 'em up in New York, where there was a Delancy Street on the lower east side. We both liked the sound of it, but thought it would sound even tougher beginning with a "Y" instead of a "Del." That's one of the great things about creating comics -- you can make up your own geography!

Well, too much reading pleasure might spoil you for the outside world, so it's best to ease up now. But I dare not omit the fabled words you've been waiting for -- our legendary mailing address: Stan's Soapbox, c/o BULLPEN BULLETINS, Marvel Comics, 387 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016 and, of course, our top secret e-mail site: stanfanz@aol.com. Once you've memorized those magic words, burn them, or swallow them, but whatever you do, remember -- they must never fall into the hands of DC!

Excelsior!



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-- WHICH CAN'T BE MISSED!

Oh, NO! NO!



Th-THE DEVICE --!

IT'LL BE SMASHED!

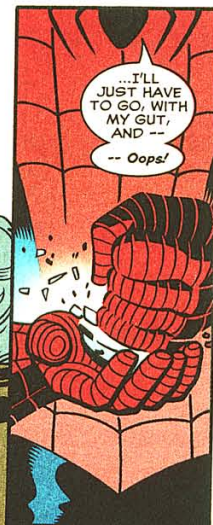


TWIPP

TURN IT OVER, MISTER! I INVENTED THAT INDUCER!

BUT SHE WAS WORKING FOR ME AT THE TIME... I OWN IT... AND ALL ITS MERCHANDISING RIGHTS!

Hmmm! SINCE YOU BOTH HAVE A CLAIM ON IT...



...I'LL JUST HAVE TO GO, WITH MY GUT, AND --
-- Oops!



NOW IF YOU TWO LOVEBIRDS WILL PLEASE EXCUSE ME, I SEE THAT SOME CIVIC-MINDED CITIZEN HAD THE FORESIGHT TO DIAL 911 --



-- SO I'LL JUST LEAVE YOU TO THE TENDER MERCIES OF NEW YORK'S FINEST!

THE INDUCER WAS MINE!

MINE!

MINE!



I'LL SUE YOU FOR EVERY CENT YOU'LL EVER HAVE, BERT GILMORE!

YOU WON'T THINK I WON'T SUE YOU?

YOU AND SPIDER-MAN WILL BOTH HEAR FROM MY ATTORNEYS!

I WOULDN'T BE SO FAST TO ENGAGE THE WEB-HEAD IN ANY LEGAL BATTLE, SIR...

...RUMOR HAS IT THAT HE HAS ACCESS TO A GREAT LAWYER!

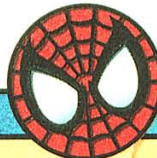


THE SPIDER-MAN WEB

MATT
HICKS
ASSISTANT
EDITOR

RALPH
MACCHIO
EDITOR

BOB
HARRAS
CHIEF



Dear Spider's Web.

Re: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN and its high-quality derivatives.

Ouch! Just finished reading part two of "SpiderHunt" in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #432, and it really hurts to see someone we love as much as Spider-Man take such a serious shellacking. It has occurred to me that the Daily Bugle has overreached their authority. Surely anyone can offer a bounty or a reward, but once they affix the caveat "Dead or Alive," they take on a judiciary responsibility. By that measure the mandate makes the Bugle an outlaw organization punishable by, well, maybe they should have all their No-Prizes confiscated!

You can believe we are deeply interested in discovering the roots and origin of the Black Tarantula, if for no other reason than to find his weaknesses. On the other hand, the Black Tarantula would be a formidable ally for Spidey to face in future issues (of course, that is assuming he survived "SpiderHunt" and "Identity Crisis").

What else can I say? You've got us. I wait with baited breath for each new development in the "SpiderHunt" storyline. I really count PETER PARKER, SPIDER-MAN #488 as the beginning of the tale, even though the bounty was announced in ASM. Anyway, what I want thank you for is not making us wait an entire month between installments of "SpiderHunt." I agree that the Spider-Identities should be kept separate to the degree possible, but this is one instance where I simply would not have been able to endure the 30-day intervals.

Am I reading too much into the story here, or is Norman Osborn a clone of the one that died 300 or more issues ago? Here he denies ever having been the Green Goblin, and seems to be convinced of that himself. He is as serpentine and as brusque as the original N.O., but something seems to be indicating that he is not the genuine article. Perhaps the mention on the Marvel Website that in SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #255 Norman will in some way assist Spider-Man at a critical point. No, I don't think the Norman Osborn I've come to know and...well, have a definite opinion about, would be caught dead aiding the Spider-Man Benefit Fund, let alone directly render help to the distressed webmaker.

It is obvious that the original Green Goblin suffered dementia and most likely brain damage brought on by the cumulative effects of the chemicals from the same plant that made him the business magnate he is today. The "new" Osborn seems to share in the hatred of arachnids, but without the clear insanity that branded the original. And then there is the matter of the new Goblin (Harry, right)? He has no fear of reprisal from this Norman Osborn. No Green Goblin pretender would have crossed the original. He was ruthless, senselessly violent, blindly vindictive. In a word: insane. He had no regard for human life, not even that of his son when he was in the Goblin mindset, and seeing him care for Liz and Harry's son, whom he calls grandson, tells me that this is a Norman Osborn clone.

And now I'm sure Override is going

to be blaming Spider-Man for the death of his wife in ASM #440. No biggy. It will be good to see at least one of these overzealous cash-crazed mercenaries taken down a full notch by the web-spinner, if there still is one.

Carl Peterson
2979 Eighth Avenue 30N
New York, NY 10039

Norman Osborn a clone? In a word...no.

Dear Ralf and Matt,

My compliments to everyone involved in an incredible issue. AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #432 was a thrill ride from start to finish, and also included an awesome cover. Tom DeFalco outdid himself on the script, which had Spidey dealing with being Public Enemy #1, the rescue of little Normie Osborn, and a battle with the Black Tarantula. Nice job, Tom!

John Romita, Jr. and Bud Larosa did an incredible job on the artwork, especially on the battle with the Tarantula.

In closing, I would like to say that if parts one and two are any indication of how "SpiderHunt" is going to be, I really can't wait to see how the rest of this saga turns out.

Keep up the incredible work.

Rob Johnson
7775 Spicewood Lane
Cincinnati, OH 45255

Glad you enjoyed the issue, Rob. But how could you not, with JR, Jr. filling in and all? Just exactly how did the busiest man in comics to pitch in after all? Easy—we threatened to kidnap his grandkids if he didn't! Luckily, John didn't figure out that we'd have to wait a good, oh, 20 or so years before that would even be possible (with his darling son, Vinnie, being only two-years-old and all)! But hey, it would take Ralf that long to come up with a plan, anyway.

Dear Spider's Web.

I am anxiously waiting to see how the "SpiderHunt" storyline plays out. Norman Osborn has got to be the one pulling the strings in this debacle; making Peter Parker suffer was always something he reveled in. What better way to make him suffer than to frame him for murder?

Spider-Man has always been comic-dom's most misunderstood hero. Black Tarantula himself stated, "While your local authorities may mistakenly believe you to be a criminal, those of us who lurk in the shadows see your true heroism." Irony, isn't it? The villains that Spidey fights seem to know him better than his allies. No one gives Spidey the benefit of the doubt. In the SPIDER-MAN: WEB OF DOOM limited series, a pre-MACH-1 Beetle frames Spider-Man for the death of a guy who was suffocated with webbing. Sound familiar?

If someone ever suspected that Captain America was guilty of murder, I know they'd give Cap the benefit of the doubt and help him hunt down the real culprit, so why not Spidey? Jonah Jameson has been publishing anti-Spider-Man propaganda since day one. Jonah just wants to sell papers and Spidey certainly does that, but why focus on the negative?

After all the times Spidey has saved Jameson in the past, you'd think the least he could do was publish a positive story about him for once. What's a man's life worth to ya' JJJ? Everyone knows that Spider-Man is innocent, but hey, for 5 million.

I know these are fictional characters and that watching Spider-Man go through the wringer makes for an interesting and exciting story, but I just wanted to let you know how I felt. I also heard that after "SpiderHunt," Spidey would be creating four new identities for himself. Sounds interesting! But, I implore you not to get rid of Mary Jane. She is the heart and soul of Spider-Man. Peter needs an anchor, so to speak, and Mary Jane is that anchor! All the creative teams on the Spidey books are doing a superb job! Make Mine Marvel!

Matthew Bartsch
(Address withheld by request)

Actually, Matthew, Cap was framed, although not for murder, and didn't get quite the support you would have thought. In the now classic "Man Without a Country" storyline (now available in trade paperback!), Cap was accused of aiding and abetting the Red Skull! Did he get the benefit of the doubt? No, he got kicked out of the country! Think of it as a symptom of our modern age wherein we are so used to seeing our idols—be they movie stars, politicians or some other high-profile figure—brought low by scandal, that we're willing to believe anything of anybody. Add that to the fact that Spider-Man has always been mistrusted by the public, and his predicament in "SpiderHunt" makes perfect sense.

As for Jonah, sure he makes a dime off of Spider-Man, but that's not his sole interest, or even his main one. JJ doesn't like the webslinger—never has, and probably never will. As he has revealed himself (with no one else around, of course), Jonah is motivated by a deep-seated jealousy of Spider-Man, and sees him as a symbol of his own personal failures.

NEXT ISSUE:

TWO, TWO, TWO ISSUES OF AMAZING THIS MONTH! CARE WE GOOD TO YOU, GUYS, OR WHAT? NOT ONLY THAT, BUT IT'S THE SWAN SON ON THIS TITLE FOR TITANIC TOM DEFALCO (SOB!), AND WHAT A FINALE IT IS! TOM WEAVES A BIZARRE TALE OF THE FUTURE IN WHICH ARCHAEOLOGISTS HAVE DISCOVERED ARTIFACTS THAT POINT TO THE EXISTENCE OF A HERO NAMED SPIDER-MAN! BUT WHAT CONCLUSION DO THEY DRAW ABOUT THIS STRANGE CHARACTER? FIND OUT IN JUST TWO WEEKS, COURTESY OF TOM 'BYE, BYE BIRDY' DEFALCO, GUEST ARTIST RAFAEL 'RAGTIME' KAYANAN AND BUDD 'WON KING' LAROSA. ALL BROUGHT TO YOU UNDER THE AUSPICES OF RALF 'CAPEMAN' MACCHIO

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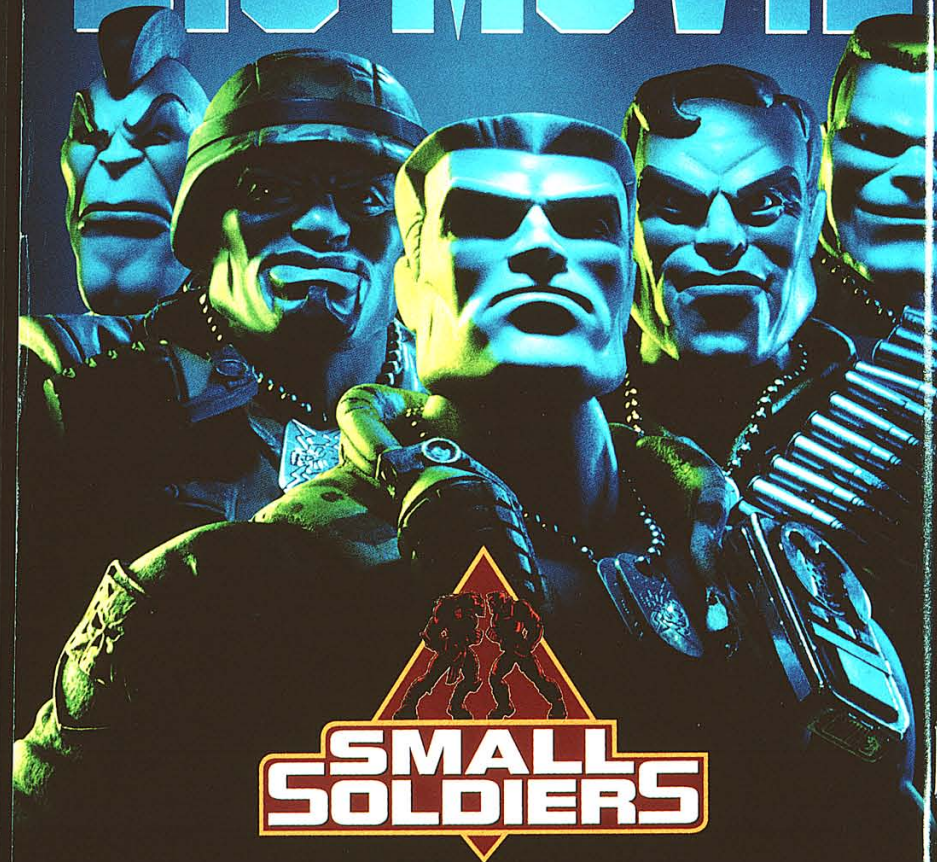
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